

WASHINGTON, D.C. , Congressman John W. Olver (D-1st District) announced that the U.S. House of Representatives has approved funding for the construction of The Big Red Barn, a 2,000-square-foot facility to house and care for animals at the Treehouse at East Hampton Meadow.

The funding will go toward the construction of The Big Red Barn, a 2,000-square-foot facility to house and care for animals at the Treehouse at East Hampton Meadow.

Olver secured the funding in the FY07 Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development (Housing and Urban Development) appropriations bill.

Olver is the Ranking Member (most senior Democrat) of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development, Education and the Environment.

The Senate must still approve its appropriations bill and then both chambers will have to approve a reconciliation bill to pass the funding.

"The families and seniors in this wonderful intergenerational community, along with the eventual Big Red Barn, will be able to enjoy the benefits of the funding," Olver said.

"We are very pleased that Congressman Olver was able to secure this very important funding," Mayor Michael J. Pappalardo said.

"We are very grateful to Congressman Olver for his support of the Big Red Barn Animal Therapy Program," said Judy Cockerton, Executive Director of Treehouse.

The Barn will house a variety of smaller animals, such as rabbits, sheep, goats, donkeys and miniature horses.

The mission of Treehouse is to provide children in the public child welfare system with enduring family connections and a safe, stable home.

With Mt. Tom in the background, the community is located on Park Street, next to White Brook Middle School.

At Treehouse, 12 affordable rental homes will be ready this spring for families who are adopting children from the public child welfare system.

For more information about this project, contact:

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